

illegal GOPAC campaign contributions, about the \$250,000 of NEWT's support, as they call it, for Speaker GINGRICH.

As the nonpartisan citizens action group, Common Cause, said yesterday, in calling for the recusal and removal of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct chairman, "What is at stake is the integrity of the House ethics process." It is time to end the coverup and stand up for law enforcement.

PRESIDENT SHOULD SIGN THE BALANCED BUDGET ACT OF 1995

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, Republicans in Congress have advocated a fair, realistic agenda, literally the beginning of this session of Congress. We want to balance the budget in 7 years using honest Congressional Budget Office numbers. We want to save Medicare from going bankrupt. We want genuine welfare that emphasizes work and we want to cut taxes for working families.

Despite the unending stream of misinformation coming from the press these days, the American people overwhelmingly endorse this agenda. A recent mega poll taken of 7,200 registered voters confirm that there is wide and popular support for the Balanced Budget Act now sitting on the President's desk. In fact, 86 percent of the poll's respondents said that the budget issue should be squared away this year, now.

The President should stop the rhetoric and sign what the American people overwhelmingly support, the Balanced Budget Act of 1995.

DELAYED DECISION FROM COM- MITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OF- FICIAL CONDUCT

(Ms. DeLAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, for 14 months the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct has dithered, dallied, and delayed making a decision on the complaints against Speaker NEWT GINGRICH. As we learned earlier this year, delays in the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct investigations give the appearance of a coverup. The secrecy and delays connected with the Bob Packwood investigation brought disgrace to this institution. Let us not repeat the same mistake when it comes to the Speaker of the House.

Public pressure and the increasing public disclosure of potential wrongdoing has compelled Republicans on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to consider an outside counsel, but only with severely limited duties, so that many of the questions that need to be answered would be left untouched.

Mr. Speaker, we need an outside counsel allowed to conduct a full investigation, and let the chips fall where they may. As Mr. GINGRICH himself said in 1988, the only way to ensure a thorough nonpartisan investigation of the highest ranking Member of the House is to appoint an outside counsel with, and I quote, "The independence necessary to do a thorough and complete job."

The time to appoint an outside counsel is now. Further delays will cause damage to this institution.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND THE CBO

(Mr. RIGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I notice none of our Democratic colleagues want to talk about the budget this morning. Perhaps that is because they are just as confused as we are about the President's latest proposal.

Mr. Speaker, the President now says that pursuant to the bill that he signed into law, he will propose a balanced budget in 7 years, but he wants to use false numbers generated by the Office of Management and Budget.

The last time the President put forward a so-called budget, it was a vague 22-page summary, and the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said it had annual deficits in the range of \$200 billion as far as the eye could see, well into the next century. Now the President says he will give us the details, but he still does not want to use Congressional Budget Office numbers, as he is obligated to do by the bill he signed into law.

Yet, the President, a few years ago, stood right here, gave a State of the Union Address, February 17, 1993, and said, quote, "I will point out that the Congressional Budget Office, which is normally more conservative about what is going to happen, and closer to right than previous Presidents have been. I did this so that we could argue about priorities with the same set of numbers."

It is time for the President to get with the program and follow the law that he signed.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET CUTS

(Mr. WATT of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the invitation from my colleague to talk about the budget, because that is exactly what I came here to talk about.

Last Friday I was down in Durham, NC, in my congressional district, talking to poor people about the reconciliation bill and the budget that has been proposed by my Republican colleagues. They could not believe what I was tell-

ing them: \$270 billion in cuts in Medicare, \$180 billion in cuts in Medicaid, making our health and our future at risk.

They could not believe that our Republican colleagues were talking about cutting reading programs for the most vulnerable kids in America. They could not believe that they were talking about taking kids, 1 to 2 million more kids, and putting them in poverty, all for the purpose of giving a tax break to the richest people in America. Get real. This is real dollars we are talking about, and the future of our country we are talking about.

CLINTON BUDGET COSTS AMERICAN CHILDREN

(Mr. CUNNINGHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I give credit to the liberal education system that our colleagues cannot add or subtract. There is no cut in Medicare, and they know that. Mr. Speaker, the Clinton budget costs American children \$187,000, just on the interest of the national debt. By contrast, the Republican Congress is turning toward the best interest of our American children, balancing the budget and investing in their education.

I have heard colleagues say we are cutting programs such as Goals 2000. Absolutely. We zeroed out, and I would do it again, Goals 2000 on a Federal level. We are spending the money down at the State level, sending the money closest to the people, driving it down to the school districts. And they can do a Goals 2000 at the State level, but they do not have 38 instances in the bill of Goals 2000 that said the State will do this or the Federal intrusion. They can still do a Goals 2000 and these other programs. Any additional savings goes to the children.

ORGAN DONATION

(Mr. MOAKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an issue that is very near and dear to my heart. Organ donation. As most of my colleagues know, I underwent a successful liver transplant this summer, and because someone gave me the gift of life, I am able to be with all my friends today.

Lucky for me, organ transplantation is no longer an experimental procedure, but rather a lifesaving procedure. My colleague, the gentleman from South Carolina, FLOYD SPENCE, and I are certainly living proof that transplant works and that it saves lives.

But, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, FLOYD SPENCE and I were the lucky ones. The fact of the matter is, most Americans have no idea of the importance of organ and tissue donation.

Today, 43,000 Americans from all over this country are waiting for a transplant. Serious life-threatening illnesses, Mr. Speaker, just do not discriminate.

The greatest tragedy of all, Mr. Speaker, is that every day eight people die waiting for this donor organ. And that is not because they are not out there, it is because far too few people realize how precious a gift they can give before it is too late.

I would like to take this time, Mr. Speaker, to ask my colleagues to discuss the issue of organ donation with those they care about. Give someone the miracle of a second chance. Give the gift of life and become an organ donor. I just cannot tell my colleagues how much it meant to me.

REFORM LEGAL IMMIGRATION

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our legal immigration system is broken and needs to be fixed.

It forces husbands and wives and their children to wait up to 10 years to join each other in the United States.

Also, the number of legal immigrants applying for supplemental security income has increased 580 percent over the last 12 years. That costs hard-working taxpayers \$4 billion a year.

And our broken legal immigration system drives the crisis in illegal immigration. Over 40 percent of all illegal aliens arrived as legal immigrants but overstayed their temporary visas.

To fix these problems, the Immigration in the National Interest Act, H.R. 2202, substantially reduces the waiting time for families to be reunited.

It also encourages legal immigrants to be self-reliant and discourages them from becoming a burden to the American taxpayer.

Help fix a broken immigration system and support the Immigration in the National Interest Act.

□ 1030

THE HOUSE MUST NOT TOLERATE A DOUBLE STANDARD

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, both Common Cause and I insist that in order to carry out the responsibilities of an outside counsel effectively, it is necessary for the counsel's authority and independence to be clearly and publicly established. The special counsel must have the authority and independence necessary to conduct the inquiry in an effective and credible manner. The House of Representatives, as well as the American public, deserve an investigation which will uncover the truth. At this moment, I am afraid

that the apparent restrictions placed on this special counsel will not allow the truth to be uncovered. "The rules normally applied by the Ethics Committee to an investigation of a typical Member are insufficient in an investigation of the Speaker of the House. Clearly, this investigation has to meet a higher standard of public accountability and integrity." Prophetic words, indeed, Mr. Speaker.

These are the words of the current Speaker of the House in 1988 referring to the investigation of a former Speaker of this House. This House cannot and must not tolerate a double standard. The Ethics Committee must follow the standard set by Speaker GINGRICH himself.

We need an outside counsel to investigate Speaker GINGRICH and we must not restrict the scope of that counsel's investigation. Let's get on with it.

WELFARE REFORM IN THE BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, Pastor Bob Timberlake is like firelight in a home's window to Nebraskans left out in the cold.

He runs the Open Door Mission, a shelter for Nebraska's homeless. On any given night over 200 guests get emergency shelter at the mission.

But the mission's help doesn't come with no strings attached. Pastor Bob strongly encourages work.

The Federal Government doesn't do that.

As a result, welfare has decayed working-class society like sugar on teeth.

That's why our welfare reform package is so important. After a decade of promises, the Republican majority is delivering true welfare reform. It will enforce work. No more something for nothing. No more free lunch.

And like Pastor Bob, it maintains our safety net at the same time it requires some sweat equity and elbow grease.

Too many children in our Nation are not just trapped in poverty, but trapped in the destructive welfare state.

I believe those who care about them should embrace real welfare reform.

QUESTIONS ABOUT A BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of questions that have been going on about the budget. Will we have a balanced budget? Will the Democrats go with the Congressional Budget Office numbers? When will the budget be balanced? Will the President,

in fact, offer a balanced budget? Will it happen this year? Will it happen before Christmas?

In fact, Mr. Speaker, there has been so much confusion about the budget that I told the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH] to go down to the CIA and get one of the palm readers down there to give him a prediction.

One thing we know, Mr. Speaker, is that we do not need a crystal ball to read this agreement right here that happened between the Republicans and the Democrats. It says, both sides, including and especially the President, are committed to a 7-year balanced budget.

"The President and the Congress shall enact legislation in the first session of the 104th Congress to achieve a balanced budget not later than the fiscal year 2002, as estimated by the Congressional Budget Office."

Not one person voted against this. This is what the discussion is all about, Mr. Speaker. Let us keep our commitments and follow this agreement.

A 50-PERCENT INCREASE IN STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM IS NOT A CUT

(Mr. SOUDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to set the record straight concerning the student loan and Pell grant proposals in the Balanced Budget Act of 1995.

Mr. Speaker, contrary to what my colleagues may be hearing from sources on the other side of the aisle, Federal student loans are not cut. In fact, loan volume will increase by 50 percent over the next 7 years without imposing additional costs to students or parents. This amounts to an increase of \$12 billion in spending on Federal student loans through the year 2002; from \$24 to \$36 billion in 7 years.

Mr. Speaker, not only do Republicans increase spending for the guaranteed student loan program by 50 percent, but the maximum award for Pell Grants targeted to low-income students will rise to the highest level in their history, to \$2,440.

We have targeted the expenditures to those who need it most; not cut them. Democrats have barraged the airwaves to convince the public that Republicans are cutting Federal financial aid, but a 50-percent increase in the guaranteed loan program demonstrates that this is not the case.

COMMITMENT TO A BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, 18 days ago in the House of Representatives we passed a continuing resolution that had the language in it, that the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON]